



## STATEMENT OF AT&T CONNECTICUT

### Regarding Raised House Bill No. 5460 An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings Before the Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees February 10, 2011

#### **Proposal:**

Raised House Bill 5460 would prohibit all employers from requiring that employees attend meetings or participate in communications if the primary purpose is to communicate the employer's opinion on religious or "political matters."

#### **Comments:**

AT&T opposes Raised House Bill 5460 because it is overly broad and it would unreasonably restrict employers' ability to disseminate important information to employees.

AT&T is particularly concerned because the legislation could be used to bar legitimate and important communication from employer to employee, even in situations where it is in employees' best interest to be made aware of matters that concern their employer. AT&T suggests that communications to ensure that employees are aware of and understand the consequences of legislation that affects them directly or indirectly through its impact to their employer, are a matter of corporate responsibility. Similarly, mandatory meetings to inform employees of the existence of organizations or activities intended to effectuate change in public policy that affects their employer, should not be prohibited. Such communications could fall under the bill's broad classification of "employer's opinion concerning . . . political matters." Consequently AT&T opposes Raised House Bill 5460 because it could unreasonably restrict an employer's legitimate communication with its employees.

#### **Conclusion:**

AT&T opposes Raise House Bill 5460 and respectfully requests that, if the committee determines that there is a need for this legislation, the committee change the language to ensure that legitimate communication between an employer and its employees are not covered by the legislation.